

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 FREETO 00710 011726Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-12 MCE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 /077 W

-----076541 020218Z /70

R 011425Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7222

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0710

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SL

SUBJ: PRESIDENT STEVENS' REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: 77 FREETOWN 1796

1. DURING A CALL ON PRESIDENT STEVENS MARCH 1, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD A NEWS BROADCAST INDICATING THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD GRANTED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND THAT HE WISHED TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE FOR SIERRA LEONE. I SAID I WAS AWARE OF THE NEWS BROADCAST INDICATING US ASSISTANCE FOR SUCH COUNTRIES AS KENYA, ZAIRE AND LIBERIA. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT I WAS ALSO AWARE OF THE DISCUSSIONS THAT PRESIDENT STEVENS HAD HAD WITH AMBASSADOR SAMUELS LAST MAY AND THAT I MYSELF HAD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION IN THE DEPARTMENT DURING MY CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON LAST SUMMER.

2. I SAID I WAS SURE HE WAS AWARE FROM WHAT AMBASSADOR SAMUELS HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE QUESTION IS A VERY DIFFICULT ONE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD BEEN MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT. I ADDED THAT SIERRA LEONE'S REQUEST WAS STILL IN THE BOOKS BUT THAT I HAD NOT BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT WITH HIM TO DATE SINCE, FRANKLY, I HAD HAD NOTHING TO TELL HIM. I POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS STRONG FEELING IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH THE
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PAGE 02 FREETO 00710 011726Z

PRESIDENT HAS REITERATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD REDUCE RATHER THAN INCREASE ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. I ADDED THAT I WAS AWARE THAT HIS INTEREST WAS NOT IN ARMAMENTS BUT IN TRAINING AND THAT I COULD ONLY ADVISE HIM THAT I WOULD CERTAINLY PASS ON HIS REQUEST TO MY GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENT STEVENS SAID THAT HE WOULD BE SENDING A FORMAL REQUEST TO ME SHORTLY.

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE A CURRENT UPDATE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO SIERRA LEONE. I REALIZE THAT THE PROSPECTS
FOR EVEN MINIMAL TRAINING ARE DIM BUT I BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE
PREPARED TO MAKE A FORMAL REPLY TO PRESIDENT STEVENS' FORMAL
REQUEST.
LINEHAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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